

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, August 29th – 1 John 3:11-24 & Genesis 4:1-11

This series will address the need to be in community in order to live the life Christ and the Apostles taught about and commanded. It is required, because many of the instructions require us to certain acts towards one another. We cannot fulfill these requirements unless we are in community with each other. We begin this journey with Jesus' command to "Love one another." This theme is carried throughout the New Testament by several voices. This week we will hear from John, Luke and Paul. We start with John. Begin by reading vss. 11-15. What are we called to do (vs. 11)? John then begins with how this does NOT look. Who is his example (vs. 12)? Read the Genesis text. What emotions caused Cain to murder? Now read verse 13 in 1 John. What is John's point and how does it tie into Cain and Abel's story? Now finish by reading verses 14-15. As Jesus looks in your heart today where would you be found – in life because you love your brothers and sisters or like Cain, a murderer who hates his brother and sister in Christ? Are you angry with someone? Does someone rub you the wrong way and you find yourself talking about them behind their backs? What kind of love offering is Jesus receiving from you? Pray today and ask for the Holy Spirit. While in your group, confess your sin and receive God's forgiveness and a new start on the path of life.

Tuesday, August 30th – Acts 4:32-37

We continue with our study on how to love one another by looking at Luke's description of the first congregation in Christ's church. This is what loving one another looked like for them. Read verse 32. What did the believers have in common? Could this have happened if they were not in community? Why not? How is this a picture of loving one another? Now read verses 33-34. The apostles were the disciples of Jesus. How did they express love to the community? What did God do in response to this obedience to love one another? What example of love is given in verses 36-37? Did everyone do this? Probably not, but everyone gave and shared something. How do we as community impact the church and surrounding community with the love of God? How are you particularly involved? Consider how being part of a smaller group can be more actively involved in loving one another. Where is God calling you to get involved in actively loving one another in service?

Wednesday, August 31th – Romans 12:9-16

Today we turn to see what Paul instructs about learning to love one another. As you read this text, how are we to love one another (vss. 9-10)? Can this be done only on Sunday mornings? Can this be lived out only in the larger gathering of God's people? Why is living this command out more feasible in smaller groups? How does it benefit others? How could it benefit you? Now read 11-16. These are practices to help us learn to love one another properly. With which of these do you struggle? Which of these can you do alone? How would doing them in a small group be better for you and for others? How does this text demonstrate the need for community in becoming fully mature disciples in Jesus Christ rather than dabblers in religion? Begin praying today for God to prepare your heart and create the desire within you to be with other believers on the journey.

Thursday September 1st – 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13; Acts 17:1-15

Today we look at one of Paul's earliest letters written to the small church in Thessalonica. To get a feel for what it must have been like to be the church in Thessalonica, read Acts 17. This small group of believers needed each other in order to mature and to witness. It was not easy being the church in Thessalonica. Now read Paul's writing to this church. What is Paul's prayer to God on their behalf (vss. 11-12)? He doesn't just want them to have love for one another, but love overflowing. Why is this important to Paul (vs. 13)? What are the three reasons for this prayer? How does this apply to our lives as believers today? How is this love developed? How does being in small groups help us to practice this love? How does having folks you may not think you like being part of your group actually help you develop a true love for one another? How does learning to love one another strengthen God's people and God's church? What kind of impact on our surrounding community might this have? Take time to pray today and ask God for love overflowing in your heart and the hearts of all his people here at Saint James. Prayerfully ask him what you might need to do in order to become more loving?

Friday, September 2nd – Hebrews 10:23-25

We close this week looking at the Book of Hebrews. It was written to those who were suffering because of the faith, as encouragement to live in the faith community with complete confidence that Christ's life, death and resurrection are sufficient to address our need to be made right with God. But this encouragement reminds them they must encourage and help each other during these difficult times. What is the encouragement in verse 23? Because of this encouragement, what are we instructed to do (vss. 24-25)? Can these things be done by yourself? What benefits do these things bring when we meet together (vs. 24)? Why is this important (vs. 25)? We cannot live as the church was

designed if we are not meeting with a group of believers for the sole, and soul, purposes mentioned here. Small groups are not just another thing to do, but a place to renew, refresh and love one another. How could you benefit from being part of a group that loves you and allows you to love them back? How might your growth as a disciple be enhanced and empowered by this experience. What have you learned this week that you need to incorporate into your walk with Jesus and other believers?

Saturday, September 3rd – *To prepare for tomorrow's worship please read 1 John 3:1-10*